

Franklin Slag

EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia County

Philadelphia

EPA ID# PASFN0305549

3rd Congressional District

Last Update: August
2002

Other Names: None

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency visually inspected the facility in January 2000. Material from the slag pile was observed to have migrated beyond the site borders on all sides of the facility. In addition, 10-15 mph winds were observed carrying large black dust clouds of the material offsite. Storm drains observed through the perimeter fence were full of slag material. A removal sampling assessment was conducted confirming high levels of lead (ie. 5-10,000 ppm). MDC Industries, which operated a slag refining business on the property where the Franklin Slag Pile is located, responded to EPA that they intended to take no actions to control or stabilize the threats posed by the lead in the slag pile. In January 2000, the EPA began its own site stabilization effort, including the application of a polymer cover to contain the slag. The site has been proposed to the National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites for long-term cleanup. A public meeting was held in the fall of 2001 to solicit public comments on listing the site. No negative comments were received, and the final listing is pending approval from EPA headquarters.

Site Description

The Franklin Slag Pile Site (MDC) is adjacent to the Franklin Smelting Site. This Site consists of a slag pile containing an estimated 110,000 cubic yards of material that was a byproduct from the copper smelting process at the neighboring Franklin Smelting Site. MDC utilized Franklin Smelting slag to market and sell as sand blasting grit.

Site Responsibility

This site is currently being addressed by a Superfund Removal Action.

NPL Listing History

This site has been proposed for placement on the the National Priorities List. Final date: September 5, 2002.

Threats and Contaminants

The primary threat posed by the Site is the extreme high lead levels from the copper slag. This contaminant poses a threat of uncontrolled release through airborne offsite migration and surface water runoff. Airborne releases from the MDC facility have been observed consistently throughout clean-up efforts at the Franklin Smelting Site. Operations at MDC ceased on 30 December 1999, with no apparent effort taken by MDC to stabilize the slag pile. MDC has submitted financial documents to EPA indicating that their liabilities exceed their assets, and therefore can take no actions to stabilize the site.

Cleanup Progress

EPA's Removal Program has taken steps to mitigate off-site releases, to control and contain the slag pile, and has applied a temporary polymer cover to further minimize weather related releases of the material. EPA has assessed the site and proposed that it be placed on the National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites. The final listing is pending approval.

Contacts

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